



NORTHLEW NEWS

September 2010

www.northlewnews@aol.com

Produced by Northlew Parish Council
Editor: Cathy Fethers 01409 220276

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Mobile Library Service

The Mobile Library service recently asked for feedback on their service, with the intention of improving the service where possible and addressing the decline in the use of the service over the last 10 years.

They have now contacted the Parish Council with details of changes to their service which will take place from January 2011.

Northlew has two stops by the Mobile Library - the Square for one hour and five minutes, and the Victory Hall for 20 minutes. A total of one hour 25 minutes. In January this will change to one stop in the Square, lasting for one hour. The time is to be confirmed later, nearer January. It will remain a fortnightly service.

On a positive note, they intend to improve the book stock on the vehicles and make DVDs available for the first time.

If you have any comments on the changes to the service please contact a member of the Parish Council before 10th September.

Posters!

Could the Parish Council point out that affixing of posters to the new seats, the Pump and the trees in the Square will cause long term damage.

It may make the seats look like they have woodworm and can also damage the natural balance of the oils in the wood.

So, best stick to the telegraph poles. Not so pretty and not the villages' responsibility to replace them.

Allotments

There wasn't a huge response to the request that anyone who wants an allotment gets in touch, so that we know the numbers and work out the feasibility before any arrangements are made. Maybe everyone was on holiday. So, another chance to express your interest. Please call Cathy Fethers on 01409 220276 if you are interested..



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WOMENS' GUILD & FELLOWSHIP

The Womens Guild & Fellowship will recommence their meetings after the summer break on Wednesday 1st September at 2.30pm in the Methodist Hall.

Please can members bring an apron that holds a memory.

METHODIST CHURCH NEWS

Thank you to everyone who supported our Fun Day on 31st July. After a poor morning the weather cleared up and we were able to enjoy the games, buy our cakes and sit in the lovely garden at Brook Cottage. As a result we raised £514.53 for our funds - thank you one and all.

Services in September

5th September 9.30 a.m. Mr Andy Hunter
12th September 9.30 a.m. Rev John Peak
19th September 9.30 a.m. Rev John Peak
26th September 10.00 a.m. United Family Service in the Victory Hall

On Saturday 25th September from 4 p.m. - 5 p.m. Mr Kevin Down will lead a children's workshop, in the Methodist Hall, to prepare for the Family Service the following day, all children welcome.

The Sunday School meets weekly in the Methodist Schoolroom at 11 a.m., all welcome.

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Dear Reader

We are amazed that our attempts at keeping Northlew village looking nice has met with such a negative response. We had a representative from the highways Department knock to inform us they has been asked to request we remove our plants from our grass verge because they were obstructing the Northlew sign; apparently visitors to the village didn't know where they were!!



As most people who drive use a GPS these days they will certainly know where they are.

This is the sign at the other end of the village which is so dirty and unkempt that it can't be read anyway but, apparently, there is no problem with this one!!!



What do you think?
Valerie James
Bolland House

BROADBAND NEWS

We have become the first community in the UK to build a wireless system ourselves but this has not been straightforward and has been beset by problems.

Our problems have included:

- Delays by the planning department;
- Delays actually giving us the funds even when the grant had been agreed;
- Being charged VAT on top of what we were originally quoted by the equipment supplier;
- Being charged £9000+ by BT for a 'free' installation.

The late installation (caused by the delays) resulted in leaves interfering with the radio signals in spring. Fixing this caused a lot of work. The funding shortfall was solved by the directors lending £17,000, interest free, to Northlew Broadband until the company could afford to repay it. Most of this remains outstanding so it is clear we are still not making profits. Indeed the long-term aim is not to make a profit but to reinvest in the community.

As a result of what the village has achieved, we are now receiving requests from all over the country to help other villages get on-line.

Our income and expenditure are as follows (excluding subscriptions)

Income

Fund Raising	£ 3,024.97
Donations	£ 1,940.00
Grant	£37,250.00
Cust. Instal. Fees	£ 668.00
Directors' Loans	£17,000.00
Total Income:	£59,882.97

Expenditure

Planning	£ 355.00
Travel	£ 118.50
Legal	£ 215.00
Aerial Tower	£ 230.00
Wireless Equipment	£47,775.60
Aerial Fitting	£ 1,487.83
Misc Equipment	£ 308.18
BT Install & Connect	£ 9,147.24
Total Expenditure:	£59,637.35

We now have 104 people connected to the network, 24 of whom paid for a year up front. This eased our initial cash flow position. Our monthly income is £1440. With a monthly BT bill of £1407 it is imperative that everyone pays their bill on time. This is best done by standing order but we need these standing orders to be paid on the 1st of the month as set out in the contract. By next January the 24 who paid for a year will return to a monthly payment pattern and we will have a monthly income of £1872.

There are still new people to be connected but it will take some time to pay back the loans or indeed reimburse Chris Marson for the 40 hours a week he puts in to supporting Northlew Broadband!!

Looking towards the future, we will be applying for extra funding. We do not want to increase the monthly subscription, but there is a number of people who exceed their 6GB monthly download allowance. This slows the service down for the rest of the community. With any other broadband service this excess use would incur an additional charge. We intend that Northlew Broadband subscribers who use more than their 6GB allowance will have to pay for extra usage.

You will be able to check your usage online so you will know how much extra you will be charged. Further details of the changes will be notified by e-mail. Please ensure that we have your current e-mail address on file or you may miss important circulars. Drop an e-mail to admin@northlew.net with 'address' in the subject line and your name and address in the body of the e-mail.

Michael Fethers
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NORTHLEW AMDRAM

It's Panto-time again!

Oh yes it is.....

Well - it is time to cast Sleeping Beauty and we're short of sleeping booties. We desperately need people to help on stage, backstage, building sets, make up and costumes to name but a few of the jobs - can you help?

There are more laughs in rehearsals than ever we get at a performance - come and join us.

Meet on Weds 22nd September at 8.00 p.m. in the committee room of the Victory Hall. With YOUR help it will all happen on Feb. 25th & 26th 2011

If you cannot come on the 22nd but still willing to help in some way ring

Martin on 01409 221376

Newcomers especially welcome - don't be shy



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CARMEL COACHES

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Winter Excursions by Coach

Friday 5 TH November	Bridgwater Carnival	£12.50
Friday 12 th November Monday 15 th November	Turkey & Tinsel at the Melbourne Ardenlea Hotel, IOW	£189.00
Sunday 21 st November	Cornish World Market	£10.00
Sunday 28 th November	Cribbs Causeway	£13.00
Sunday 5 th December	Cardiff	£15.00
Sunday 12 th December	Taunton	£10.00
Sunday 19 th December	Plymouth	£8.00
Sunday 9 th January 2011	Sleeping Beauty @ Plymouth	£25.00

Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th February Holiday On Ice "Energia" TBA

* Family tickets available at a cost of £40 for 2 adults + 2 children or 1 adult + 3 children

Call 01409 221237 for further information or to book a seat.

FOR SALE

Butane Gas Cooker. Almost new. Contact Vic on 01409 221247

Silentnight double divan with drawers. Almost new. £200 or best offer. Call Sally on 221213

Indesit 5' fridge. 4 years old, excellent condition £50.00 or best offer. Call Sally on 221213

Parish Church News

Ploughman's Lunch

There will be a Ploughman's Lunch on Saturday 4th September from 12 to 2pm in the Church Room. Ham or cheese salads, puds, plenty of company! Tickets are £4 from John Spry or Pat Durston

Harvest Festival

Harvest Festival will be early in October so I am mentioning it a bit early!

Sun Oct 3rd

9.30 am - Holy Communion (Revd John Smart)

6.30 pm Harvest Festival Songs of Praise with Northlew Silver Band. Come and sing the Old Favourites.

Mon 4th Oct

7.00 pm - Harvest Festival Supper in the Victory Hall (See posters).

We will be decorating the Church on Saturday 2nd and gifts of flowers, vegetables, etc. will be welcome. Thank you.

Churchyard

Despite the wet weather the churchyard is looking well cared for and peaceful. Very many thanks to all the men who keep it like this - the appearance of our churchyard and church is often commented on by visitors.

Services

Details of September services can be found on the What's On page.

Pat Durston

Northlew Farmers Club

Northlew Farmers Club meets again on Monday 27th September at 8pm in the Green Dragon. This month's subject is a talk on Renewable Energy.



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Newspaper Service

I reported in last month's Northlew News that Linda at The Arcade would be giving up offering the Newspaper Service.

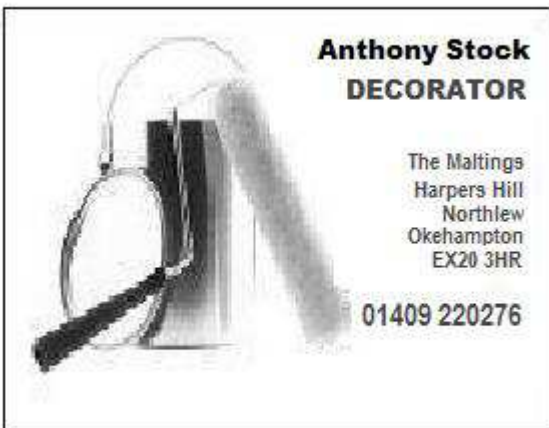
Unfortunately, that time has come around rather quickly and Linda will be serving us with the last paper on Sunday 12th September.

Unfortunately, no one has yet come forward to offer to take on the task, so yet another thing will disappear from what was an almost self-sustaining village when I moved here three years ago. Where will it all end?

Linda has asked that I pass on her thanks to all her customers for all their loyal support over the years and I am sure that they would all join me in thanking Linda for her service.

Have a nice long lay-in on Monday 13th Linda - you deserve it!

Cathy Fethers
Editor



Anthony Stock
DECORATOR

The Maltings
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New Refuse Collection Arrangements

I think that everyone has probably received the green card which explains the new refuse collection arrangements that begin this month.

Just in case you haven't, or you have any questions, there will be a Rubbish Roadshow (☺) in the square on 11th September from 9 to 12.

This is your chance to ask any questions and get the final details on the details on the service. I know I have some questions - what do you do with plastic bottle tops and how many wheelbarrows of grass cuttings can you get in a garden waste bag, for starters.

Cathy Fethers
Editor